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ABSTRACT

The National Council for Research and Planning (NCRP) serves institutional research and planning professionals in two-year, postsecondary educational institutions, and others with a special interest in community college research. This report details each of its ten goals for 1997-98 and relates its current progress in reaching these goals. Goal number one is to develop and update the NCRP Internet site. The website, its linkages, and its features are listed. Goal two is to support the Journal of Applied Research in the Community College. The Council encourages submission of manuscripts and exploring limited electronic distribution of articles and abstracts. Goal three is to support the American Association for Community College's Research Agenda, which the Council has continued by its involvement and membership participation. Goal four is to promote a comprehensive array of services for all members, using printed and electronic communications. Goal five is to continue to broaden and expand NCRP's membership base. Goal six aims to find opportunities to collaborate with members and peer organizations, which are listed. Goal seven seeks to sponsor sessions at the AACC's convention and the Association for Institutional Research Forum. Goal eight seeks to recognize outstanding research and planning practitioners and chief executive officers, and lists these individuals. Goal nine is to conduct a national study on state performance indicators, and reference is made to an available study on the web site. Finally, goal ten, to compile a collection of sample questionnaires for researchers, has led to a list of links on the web site. (JJL)

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National Council for Research and Planning

1997-98 Annual Report

American Association for Community Colleges

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National Council for Research and Planning
1997-98 ANNUAL REPORT

The National Council for Research and Planning (NCRP) is the only national organization that exists exclusively to serve institutional research and planning professionals in two-year, postsecondary educational institutions and others with a special interest in community college research. NCRP is nationally recognized as an official council of the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and an affiliated group of the international Association for Institutional Research (AIR).

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as President of NCRP and editor of Parameters, NCRP's newsletter, during 1997-98 and to work closely with such a knowledgeable and dedicated group of officers, directors, and volunteers. Thanks to the efforts of all those who have contributed their expertise and energy, NCRP ends the year with a membership count close to 500 and a very solid financial position. The President's Annual Report provides an opportunity for us to describe the progress NCRP has made toward the goals established by the Executive Board.

Technological innovations, increased access to information through the Internet, including large data sets, and faster and more powerful computers for data analysis have all changed the way we conduct business. The role of the college researcher has become more and more important in the decision making process. An organization like NCRP is, therefore, more important than ever in linking colleagues and enabling the sharing of their ideas and expertise.

PROGRESS TOWARD THE 1997-98 GOALS

GOAL ONE:

Continue to develop and update the NCRP Internet web site.

Thanks to Kevin Keefe, Mary Lou D'Allegro, and Cary Israel from Raritan Valley Community College (NJ) and Jo Ann Phillips in the Peralta Community College District Office of Institutional Development, NCRP has an excellent and up-to-date Internet web site. http://www.raritanval.edu

The site features NCRP's:

- Organizational Purpose
- Goals
- Benefits of Membership
- Membership Application Forms
- Current NCRP Officers

NCRP Publications:

- Journal of Applied Research in the Community College
- The Parameters Newsletter
- Annual Report
- Community College Surveys & Studies

- NCRP Award Criteria and Recipients
- Past NCRP Leaders
- Organizational Background
- NCRP Constitution
- NCRP By-Laws
- Listing of Officers and Regional Directors
- Links to other useful Internet sites

JC 980411

New this year was the addition of Parameters on-line, the survey bank and report section.

The National Council for Research and Planning's list serv remains an important and timely mechanism for disseminating announcements and gathering information from and sharing ideas with colleagues across the country. Many thanks to Cerritos Community College (CA) for its ongoing efforts to provide list management services for the NCRP-list. In addition to questions and requests for assistance with particular research issues, the list-serv keeps members up-to-date about conferences and other resources useful to researchers and planners. Members are encouraged to use NCRP-list to share ideas with and gather information from colleagues.

GOAL TWO:

> Support the Journal of Applied Research in the Community College by encouraging the submission of high quality manuscripts and exploring limited electronic distribution of abstracts and/or selected articles.

The semiannual, refereed Journal of Applied Research in the Community College continues to be an important avenue for members to share their ideas and publish the results of research and planning initiatives. The purpose of the Journal is to communicate innovative practices in applied research that supports educational and administrative decision making at the institutional, state, and national levels. The Journal seeks manuscripts detailing the objectives, methods, and findings of studies connected to assess student outcomes, evaluate programs and services, determine community educational needs, project the impacts of proposed legislation, or otherwise provide information needed by those setting educational and administrative policy for community colleges. Besides providing insights into emerging policy issues, articles accepted for publication describe research models than can be replicated by readers in their own policy studies.

The Journal of Applied Research in the Community College is produced under the excellent leadership of Editor James C. Palmer, Associate Professor at Illinois State University, and the highly capable assistance of the Editorial Advisory Board. During the past five years, the Journal has evolved and flourished under Dr. Palmer's leadership. Beginning with the 1997-98 academic year Mark Oromaner agreed to serve as Journal co-editor. Dr. Oromaner is Dean of Planning and Institutional Research at Hudson County Community College (NJ) and a long-term member of the Editorial Advisory Board. A published author, he brings strong editorial skills and a community college practitioner's perspective to the co-editor position.

Dr. Richard L. Alfred and Patricia Carter served as a guest editors for the fall edition of the Journal. Dr. Alfred is a Professor of Higher Education in the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Michigan and a prolific author. Patricia Carter, Consortium for Community College Development at the University of Michigan, has also published extensively. The special issue addresses institutional effectiveness in community colleges. Section One includes two articles dealing with conceptual considerations, followed by case studies from El Paso Community College, Central Arizona College, City Colleges of Chicago, the Wisconsin Technical colleges system, and the Oregon community colleges.

Limited electronic distribution of Journal abstracts and/or selected articles is being considered as a part of the NCRP Home page's further development.

GOAL THREE:

> Support the American Association for Community College's Research Agenda.

The NCRP sessions at the American Association for Community Colleges (AACC) Convention and the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) Forum are aligned with the target areas delineated in AACC's Research Agenda. The Council-sponsored session at AACC's 78th Annual Convention in Miami Beach, entitled "Reaching Toward Relevant Research and Planning," addressed assessment of

institutional effectiveness, student learning, and continuous improvement as front burner issues. How are community colleges measuring institutional effectiveness and how are colleges using assessment results? As one of the panelists, I described the work of NCRP and the changes taking place in the research and planning area as a result of the revolution in information technology. Kent Farnsworth, President of Crowder College (MO) and Chair of AACC's Research Commission discussed the work of and presented the draft of the Commission's 1998 Research Agenda, soon to be released. Kent Phillippe discussed the role of AACC and research and talked about the agenda in depth. Jeff Seybert, Johnson County Community College, described the AACC white paper research studies funded by the Sloan Foundation, including his national study which collected information on assessment practices across the nation.

The agenda focuses on three major issues and five broad areas. The three areas are:

Access
Learning Process
Outcomes/Value Added

The five broad areas covered by AACC's 1998-99 Research Agenda include:

1) Technology
2) Workforce Training
3) Faculty and Staff Development
4) Collegiate Education
5) Institutional Finances/Costs

Another important way in which NCRP and its members are supporting the Research Agenda is by actively participating in the work of the AACC Research Commission. The AACC Research Commission met twice during the fiscal year. The initial meeting was held in conjunction with the AACC Fall Board Meeting in Washington, D.C. and the second meeting was held just before the AACC Conference in April in Miami Beach. Jeffrey A. Seybert, Director of Institutional Research at Johnson County Community College (KS), has served NCRP well as our designated representative on the Commission. He has done an outstanding job of keeping NCRP's membership updated on Commission activities. His reports are posted on NCRP's web site.

We are fortunate to have several other active NCRP members serving on the Commission. These individuals have also made numerous positive contributions in the group's deliberations:

Janice Nahra Friedel--Iowa Department of Education, Division of Community College and Workforce preparation
Larry Mayes, University of Kentucky Community College System
Virginia McMillan, Illinois Community College Board
Jeff Seybert, Johnson County Community College
Jeff Stuckman, Florida Community College at Jacksonville
Jim Palmer, Illinois State University
Pat Carter, Consortium for Community College Development, University of Michigan
Norton Grubb, University of California at Berkeley
Margaret Rivera, AACC
Kent Phillipe, AACC
Greg Kienzel, AACC

Harriott Calhoun, Director of Institutional Research at Jefferson State Community College (AL) was selected as NCRP's liaison to AACC's Research Commission for 1998-2000.

GOAL FOUR:

Promote a comprehensive array of services for all members remaining cognizant that

printed and electronic communications serve as the primary methods of interacting for many members. Hence, producing high quality publications such as the Journal, Parameters Newsletter, and Membership Directory must remain a priority.

Maintaining an open exchange of ideas and information among members is an important goal of the Council and central to its existence. NCRP publications play a significant role in the process. A new Membership Directory is published annually under the direction of Karen A. Conklin. As previously noted, semiannual editions of the Journal of Applied Research in the Community College are published under the leadership of Dr. James C. Palmer and Mark Oromaner. Four issues of Parameters are published. I served in the dual role of President and Parameters' Editor during 1997-98. I was pleased that several community college presidents and researchers have commented on the timely coverage of topics important to our profession that Parameters provides.

NCRP's web site has several new features, including a report section, survey bank, Parameters Newsletter, and links to community and technical college research web sites. Reports displayed to date include: "Inside Out: Accountability and Performance in the California Community Colleges," by Janis Cox Jones; "Streamlining the Transfer Ready Model, and How Data Outcomes Compare to Requirements by the Student Right to Know Legislation," by Richard Rasor; and "Performance Reporting and Funding by State," by Loretta Seppanen. NCRP's Annual Reports and meeting notes from the Commission on Research are also available on-line.

GOAL FIVE:

Continue and broaden efforts to expand NCRP's Membership base.

A special mailing was sent out to all AIR members of two-year colleges by NCRP's new membership coordinator, Benjamin Dilla, Director of Institutional Research at Westark College (AR). Regional Directors also encourage researchers and planners in their states to join and /or renew their memberships. Secretary-Treasurer Karen A. Conklin and the Regional Directors have worked hard to expand the membership base. Providing researchers and planners with the publications and network of colleagues available through NCRP can serve to enhance their ability to conduct research and planning initiatives for their institutions.

Gene Atkin, president-elect, will be sending our a letter to all community college presidents to tell them about NCRP and its services, encouraging them to support their researcher's membership in the organization. A brochure is being developed for a mass mailing detailing benefits of NCRP membership.

GOAL SIX:

Continually look for opportunities to collaborate with members and peer organizations as NCRP initiatives are developed.

Gene Atkin, president-elect, and I actively participated in the AACC Council Chairs discussions this year. There are twenty-four AACC affiliated Councils which represent distinct areas of interest among community college administrators, faculty, and staff. The president and president-elect from each affiliated Council are eligible to participate in group activities. As a result of discussions among Council Chairs, the group is exploring avenues to widely publish award recipients from each Council and established a periodic column for Council news in the AACC Times.

The business of NCRP could not be conducted without the valuable contributions of members who volunteer for specific initiatives. Attached is a listing of the people who have generously given their time and expertise to NCRP initiatives.

Journal of Applied Research in the Community College's Editorial Advisory Board:
Co-Editor James C. Palmer, Illinois State University (IL)

Co-Editor Mark Oromaner, Hudson County Community College (NJ)
Guest Editor Richard Alfred, University of Michigan (MI)
Guest Editor Patricia Carter, University of Michigan (MI)
Felix Aquino, Hudson County Community College (NJ)
Trudy H. Bers, Oakton Community College (IL)
George R. Boggs, Palomar College (CA)
Ron Brey, Austin Community College (TX)
Harriott D. Calhoun, Jefferson State Community College (AL)
Edith H. Carter, Radford University (VA)
Craig A. Clagett, Prince George's Community College (MD)
John Eddy, University of North Texas (TX)
Richard Fonte, Austin Community College (TX)
Beverly Gass, Guilford Technical College (NC)
Joseph N. Hankin, Midlands Technical College (SC)
Jeffrey A. Seybert, Johnson County Community College (KS)
Julie Slark, Rancho Santiago Community College District (CA)
R. Dan Walleri, Mt. Hood Community College (OR)
Julie Weissman, College of Lake County (IL)
Anthony P. Zeiss, Central Piedmont Community College (NJ)

Parameters Newsletter
Editor Katrin I. Spinetta, Peralta Community College District (CA)

Membership Directory
Editor Karen A. Conklin, Johnson County Community College (KS)

NCRP's Official Representative on the AACC Research Commission
Jeffrey A. Seybert, Johnson County Community College (KS)

NCRP Session at the AACC National Convention Presenters
Kent Farnsworth, Crowder College (MO)
Kent Phillipe, AACC
Jeffrey Seybert, Johnson County Community College (KS)
Katrin Spinetta, Peralta Community College District (CA)

NCRP Best Paper Session at AIR Selection Committee Members
Chairperson Gene Atkin, Oakton Community College (IL)
Penny Armstrong, Elgin Community College (IL)
Lou Attinasi, Pima Community College (AZ)
Keith Howard, Ivy Tech State College (IN)
George Johnson, Parkland College (IL)
Mark Oromaner, Hudson County Community College (NJ)

NCRP Best Paper Session at AIR Presenter
Karl Boughan, Prince George's Community College (MD)

NCRP Travel Grant Selection Committee Members
Chairperson Scott J. Parke, Illinois Community College Board (IL)
David L. Preston, Brazosport College (TX)
Gene Atkin, Oakton Community College (IL)
Susan K. Srbljan, Illinois Community College Board (IL)

NCRP Travel Grant Recipients
Julia M. Duckwall, Johnson County Community College
Karl Boughan, Prince George's Community College (MD)

Election Committee

Scott J. Parke (Chair), Illinois Community College Board (IL)
Virginia K. McMillan, Illinois Community College Board (IL)
Susan K. Srbljan, Illinois Community College Board (IL)

NCRP Dinner at AIR
Katrin Spinetta, Peralta Community College District

NCRP-list
Cerritos Community College (CA).

NCRP Homepage
Kevin Keefe, Raritan Valley Community College (NJ)
Mary Lou D'Allegro, Raritan Valley Community College (NJ)
Cary Israel, Raritan Valley Community College (NJ)
Jo Ann Phillips, Peralta Community College District (CA)

NCRP Financial Audit Committee
Dana Rosenberg, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges (IA)
Louis C. Attinasi, Pima Community College (AZ)
Frank Abou-Sayf, Kapiolani Community College (HI)

GOAL SEVEN:

> Sponsor high quality sessions at the American Association for Community College's Convention and Association for Institutional Research Forum and continue to promote involvement in these organizations by the membership.

The NCRP-sponsored session at the American Association for Community Colleges' Conference entitled, Reaching Relevant Research," was well-attended, as already described under Goal Three. Karl Boughan will present his "Best Paper" at AIR in Minneapolis.

GOAL EIGHT:

> Recognize outstanding research and planning practitioners and chief executive officers who have made significant contributions to the advancement of research, planning, and information-based management.

NCRP will announce the following awards at AIR in Minneapolis:

Practitioner Award

Robert B. Barr, Director of Institutional Research and Planning at Palomar College (CA)

Richard A. Voorhees, Associate Vice President, Colorado Community College and Occupational Education System, Denver (CO)

Management Award

Robert D. Jensen, Chancellor of the Pima Community College District, Tucson (AZ)

Special Recognition Award

Richard L. Alfred, Associate Professor, Higher and Adult Continuing Education at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (MI)

Service Recognition Award
Katrin Spinetta, Peralta Community College District (CA)

Best Journal Article

Trudy H. Bers, Senior Director, Research, Curriculum and Strategic Planning, Oakton Community College, Des Plaines (IL)
"Self-Assessments, Academic Skills and Student Achievement,"
Spring 1997 NCRP Journal

Special Recognition for Research Commission Activities
Jeffrey A. Seybert, Director, Research, Evaluation and Instructional Development, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park (KS)

GOAL NINE:

> Conduct a national project or study on state performance indicators. Accountability and measures of institutional effectiveness are becoming increasingly important, in particular, as states move toward performance-based funding.

Loretta Seppanen updated her study on state performance indicators which is available on NCRP's web site. Numerous articles appeared in Parameters related to performance indicators in various states, including, in particular, the efforts underway in California, South Carolina, and Massachusetts.

GOAL TEN:

> Compile a collection of sample questionnaires as a resource for researchers. Researchers are continually looking for effective survey instruments. Users' comments on the strengths and weaknesses of the instruments will be included to guide users in adapting the questions to their own institutions and purposes.

As noted previously, NCRP's web site now features a substantial number of sample surveys on a variety of topics:

- **Austin Community College, TX**

  Faculty Assessment Instruments - Assessment by Students:
  -- Open Campus Courses, Testing Center: or WordPerfect file
  -- Clinical Faculty, Health Sciences: or WordPerfect file
  -- General Lecture and Lab Courses: or WordPerfect file

- **Gavilan Community College, CA**

  Student Opinion Survey: or MS Word file

- **Hudson County Community College, NJ**

  Employer Survey: or MS Word file

1996 Graduate Follow-up Questionnaire: or MS Word file

Institutional Effectiveness - Student /Graduate Questionnaire: or MS Word file

Institutional Effectiveness - Faculty/Staff Questionnaire: or MS Word file

Institutional Effectiveness - Community Questionnaire: or MS Word file

Mission Project - Community Survey: or MS Word file

- **Ivy Tech State College, IN**

Career & Employment Services, Former Student Survey: or Word 6.0 File

Career & Employment Services, Graduate Survey: or Word 6.0 File

Career & Employment Services, Employer Follow-Up Survey: or Word 6.0 File

- **Johnson County Community College, KS**

Career Survey Page includes:
Long and Short-term Follow-up of Program Completers
Telephone Survey of Program Completers
Follow-up Survey for Leavers
Employer Evaluation
Miscellaneous

- **Oakton Community College, IL**

Telephone Survey of Former Students in Transfer Program: or Word File

Survey of Former Students: or Word File

Current Student Class Surveys, 97: or Word File

Current Student Class Surveys, 96: or Word File

Career Program Follow-up Phone Survey, Fire Science: or Word File

- **Rancho Santiago Community College, CA**

Graduate Student Survey: or WordPerfect 6.0 file

Annual Student Satisfaction Survey - 1: or WordPerfect 6.0 file

Annual Student Satisfaction Survey - 2: or WordPerfect 6.0 file

- **Sinclair Community College, OH**

Transfer Survey : or Word file

Survey of Recent Graduates: or Word file

Survey of Graduates: or Word file

Former Student Follow-up Survey: or Word file

Employer Follow-up Survey: or Word file

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NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND PLANNING OFFICERS

1998-99

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Mary Ellen Goldstein
Development & Research
Holyoke Community College (MA)

Region II: Northeast
Mary Lou D'Allegro
Research Associate
Raritan Valley Community College (NJ)

Region III: Mid Atlantic
Hershel Alexander
Senior Research Analyst
Charles County Community College (MD)

Region IV: Southeast
Susanne Fischer
Director Institutional Research
St. Petersburg Com. College (FL)

Region V: Great Lakes
Susan Srbljan
Assistant Director for Policy Studies
Illinois Community College Board (IL)

Region VI: Central South
Benjamin L. Dilla
Director Institutional Research
Westark College (AR)

Region VII: Central Midwest
Ron Pennington
Director of Institutional Research and Effectiveness
St. Charles County Community College (MO)

Region VIII: Rocky Mountain States
Jackie Freeze
Associate Dean
Western Wyoming Community College (WY)

Region IX: Southwest
Frankie Santos Laanan
Senior Research Analyst
Coast Community College District (CA)

Region X: Northwest

Jack Bautsch
Director, Planning & Research
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